

Policy 7.3.19 Council Meeting Start/Adjournment Times; Study Session Start Times

POLICY PURPOSE:

Council has underscored the importance of community input and citizen engagement in the conduct of City business, and the critical role of City Council meetings in this effort. Limiting late-night meetings is intended to encourage citizen participation.

The purpose of this policy is two-fold:

- to set Council meeting adjournment times and procedures thereof
- to set Council study session start times.

Closed sessions are not included in this policy.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Council has adopted a resolution providing that Regular Council meetings will start at 7:00 p.m. (Resolution No. 141-04.)

Council will not begin hearing any new item after 11:30 p.m. unless, by a majority vote of those present, it agrees to do so. A separate vote must be taken for each matter to be considered after 11:30 p.m.

Council will need a supermajority vote to start a new item after 12:30 a.m. For purposes of this rule, a supermajority shall mean one more vote than a simple majority (for example, if seven members are present a supermajority is five; if five members are present a supermajority is four).

No new items or other Council business will be introduced after 1:30 a.m.

Any item on an agenda for a regular meeting which must be continued due to the late hour, shall be continued to a date certain.

Study sessions will start no earlier than 5:30 p.m. on dates when regular Council meetings are held.

These changes will take effect at the first meeting in January 2005.

(Adopted: RTC 04-410 (11/20/2004); (Clerical/clarity update, Policy Update Project 7/2005))

Lead Department: Office of the City Manager